

Newsletter of the

ONTARIO MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

Founded 1962

www.omss.ca

Edited by Gary Lenius



February 2011

Next meeting

Sunday, February 13, 2011

Start time 1:00 pm

Branch 210, Royal Canadian Legion
110 Jutland Road, Toronto
Doors open at 11:00 am

Featured Speaker

Charles Buchanan

on Sculpting

And

Designing an OMSS Figure

Our program for the February meeting is going to be a bit different. Our featured speaker will be Charles Buchanan, a professional sculptor. He will be giving a talk on a common sculpting fault. It should be interesting whether you're into sculpting and converting or to help you select better figures for your collection.



Some of Charles Buchanan's sculpting work in progress

In the second part of our presentation we will be working on a club centennial project. Charles has volunteered to sculpt a master figure for a Society figure which we would produce for the Society. This will be a figure of the Queen's Rangers of the 1790's in 75 mm scale. **Don Ritchie** has volunteered to do the molding and casting for us.

We need to select a pose for the figure. To help us visualize the options **Grant Lawson** of the Queen's York Rangers reserve regiment has arranged to have one of their members attend in period uniform.. We would like to use a pose different from the Society presentation figure (pictured on the masthead) to preserve its exclusivity.

Special Book Sale - 11:30 am

The club has been given a large quantity of merchandise by former member Mike Niederman. We will be holding special sales for the next two meetings. For February it will be books, for March figures. **See page 3 for further details.**

Paul Aitchison

John Brown passed on some shocking news just as the newsletter was being composed. Paul Aitchison passed away suddenly last week. Details are sketchy so far but it appears he was found deceased at his home by a friend. Paul was one of the workhorses of the Society and will be sorely missed. We will pass along any further info as we receive it.



Meeting Dates for 2011

February 13

March 20

April 10

May 15

June 11 (Annual Show)

September 11

October 16

November 13

December 11

President's Column

From our President Jim Matresky...

Our meeting in January will certainly be one that will be long remembered as Ian Pearson presented a history of the OMSS. A number of the most senior members of the Society were highlighted for their contributions over the years. A special thank you must go to Carl McTaggart, Don Melhuish and Bruce Boyd whose names were mentioned many times during the presentation and who are still leaders in our Society.

The Wednesday Group had a successful meeting in January as seven members met at my house. All members of OMSS are welcome to join this group who will meet on the last Wednesday of each month at someone's house. The general objective of the group is to be able to see other members' collections first hand and jovially discuss "issues" of the world and generally to have a good time. The meetings start at 11:00 a.m. and generally end by 2:00 p.m. so that we can beat the traffic in getting home. If you are interested in joining the group please see me at the next meeting. By the way – members come from as far as Peterborough and Barrie!

Finally, I thought it would be appropriate to thank, on behalf of all the members, those people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the OMSS a success. Thank you to John and Evelyn Brown for doing the attendance at every meeting and generally helping out all the time. Thanks to Gail Stone for providing the coffee and doughnuts and to Jeff Duncan for coordinating the draw. Special thanks should go to Frank MacKay for the Journal, Eric Clarke for our monthly programme, Norm White, our Show Chairman, and Bren Furlong for coordinating our 50th Anniversary Committee. Gary Lenius does a superb job with the Newsletter and keeping track of our membership. Thank you also to Guy Elliott for coordinating the sale of the items donated by Mike Niederman. For those of you who lend a helping hand whenever needed – you know who you are – thanks!

Until next time..happy collecting, painting, buying, selling ...and have a great month.

2011 Executive Committee

<i>President</i> Jim Matresky	<i>Member at Large</i> Gail Stone
<i>1st Vice President</i> Guy Elliott	<i>Journal Editor</i> Frank MacKay
<i>2nd Vice President</i> Paul Aitchison	<i>Program Chairman</i> Eric Clarke
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> Gary Lenius	<i>Membership Chairman</i> Ian Pearson
<i>Past President</i> John Murdock	<i>Show Chairman</i> Norm White
	<i>50th Anniversary Chairman</i> Bren Furlong

Passing the Presidential Kukri

At the January meeting the presidential reins were passed from John Murdock to Jim Matresky. Outgoing president John Murdock was presented with the Society print of the Queen's Ranger to thank him for his service. Thanks, John for a successful year.



Archive Material Wanted

At the January meeting Ian Pearson gave us a very interesting slideshow on the history of the Society. He is doing a great job in collecting and organizing the Society's archives. He is especially looking for pictures from past Society meetings, displays and annual shows to fill out the record. See Ian at a meeting or email him at ivpear@idirect.com

2011 Membership Dues

It's a new year and that means it's time to pay those membership dues again. Our treasurer Gary Lenius will be glad to take your money at the meeting. The dues have been held to the same rates as the past few years:

The Regular membership rate is \$35 for the year.

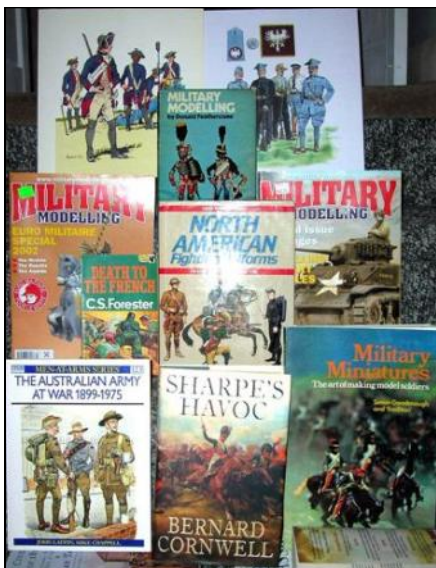
Junior membership (16 and under) is \$20.

Family membership (2nd member at same mailing address) is \$20.

Joining the "Zipper Club"

Members continue to enquire about my health after my heart attack and bypass surgery last spring. Thank you all and I'm happy to report that my recovery has gone great. I completed my 6 months' rehab program just before Christmas.

I was talking with member **Trevor Hamilton** recently. He underwent similar surgery late last year. He refers to it as joining the "zipper club". Unfortunately he ran into post-operative complications and ended up spending 16 days in hospital and another 12 in St. John's Rehab. However he is on the mend now and hopes to be out with us again at this month's meeting. We'll be glad to see him.



February Meeting: BIG BOOK SALE Start time 11:30 am.

At the February meeting will be having a big book sale. For those of you not at the January meeting, Mike Niederman, a friend of the OMSS has donated a great deal of material to us to be sold - with the profits to go to the benefit of the OMSS. We will be having a book sale this month and a figure sale at the March meeting.

For this book sale we have: five large cartons filled with books about toy soldiers and military history, two cartons packed with magazines (mainly 'Military Modelling') and a large number of gorgeous military prints. You can see the attached photo for a taste of the variety of the topics.

The sale is being run by **Evelyn and John Brown** (assisted by 'helper elves') and everything is priced to sell out on that day. Huge bargains galore!

Please note: on these two sale days there will be no draw table.

-Guy Elliott

March Meeting: FIGURE SALE

At the March meeting we will be selling off all the figures from the material kindly donated by Mike Niederman. This a huge collection of everything you can imagine or want! The attached photograph will show you just some of what will be available.

There are lovely boxed sets of current Britains units in 60mm size with matte finish. There are dozens of boxed plastic kits in 1:32 and 1:35 and 1:72 scale. There are flats and 'Warhammer' and fantasy figures. There are kits of individual figures. There are tons of these. They come in metal and plastic and acrylic. They come in 54mm, 60mm, 80mm and 90mm. To name just a few makers, there are: Tradition (dozens of these!), All the Queen's Men, Verlinden, Imrie-Risley, Series 77, Alpha Images, Men at Arms, Frank Miniatures and a whole lot more. There are boxes and boxes and plastic bags and plastic bags of miscellaneous soldiers. There are Britains and New Britains and Britains 'Deetail' and anything and everything else. They may be home castings, home-cast painted figures, part sets, spare heads - well, you name it!

You just have to come and see all this. Remember, our object is to sell off all these figures to you on Sunday. Prices will be excellent.



A Royal Display from the Past

February 6 is the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne in 1952. She would eventually be crowned on June 2, 1953 (which just happens to be the day I was born — GL). While browsing some old photos of Toronto on the web I came across this picture. It shows a window display celebrating the coronation in what I believe is the downtown Simpsons store (now The Bay).

Does anyone remember seeing this display in 1953? The filename seems to indicate that the façade of Buckingham Palace was made of glass. One wonders what ever happened to the display afterwards.

Rumor has it that one of our members is planning a Buck House display. Here's a bit of inspiration for you!





Information Needed

Harold Morrison would like information on the Grand Trunk Canadian Militia uniforms of the 1860s. The militia included artillery, engineering and infantry. Any information would be deeply appreciated. Contact Harold at 416-269-3522 or email him at aitchrwm@istar.ca

Canadian Uniform Book for Sale

David Dorward would like to sell the book "Military Uniforms In Canada, 1665-1970" by Summers, Chartrand and illustrated by R.J. Marrion for \$30. The book is long out of print and the plates inside are excellent reference material on Canadian subjects.

905-584-5838 E Mail: dkdorward@sympatico.ca

Seeking Composition Figures

Hans Doring is looking for composition figures from such makers as Elastolin, Lineol and Hausser. You can contact Hans at 416-421-9951 in the evenings.

Looking for Mr. Fix-it

Hans Doring is also looking for someone who can do some repairs to composition figures for him. (See previous item for phone number.)

Looking for Painted Figures

Stanley Kershman is interested in buying painted connoisseur figures and flats. You can contact him at stanley3211@hotmail.com or 613-726-2999.

Kits and Figures for Sale

John Hoffman, a former member now living in Fergus, is interested in selling off his unpainted figures, including quite a few Historex kits. He also has several 30 mm Napoleonic vignettes by "Under Two Flags" and 3 Waterloo dioramas that won awards at OMSS shows.

You can contact him at jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca or 519-787-1020.



If you know of an upcoming show that might interest our members, drop Gary a line.

HeritageCon 5, Sunday March 13, 2011

Modelling show and competition for all types of models including figures. Real aircraft and vehicles on display. Hobby vendors and the museum gift shop. 9 am to 4 pm at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Hamilton, Ont. Admission is \$5, entry fee of \$2 per model. Further details at www.ipmshamilton.ca

London Toy Soldier & Miniature Show Saturday March 26, 2011

Sponsored by King and Country. At the Royal National Hotel, London England Show Hours: 10:00am-4:00pm
Website: www.thetoyssoldiershow.com

Michigan Historical Collectors Show April 2-3, 2011

This semi-annual show has shifted to a bit later in the year so weather shouldn't be as much an issue. A nice show within reasonable driving distance. A good selection of toy soldier dealers as well as militaria. At Madison Place Hall in Madison Heights Michigan (north Detroit area). 9 to 4 Saturday, 10 to 3 Sunday admission \$6.
www.michiganshow.com

70th Annual MFCA Show and Mart April 29 & 30, 2011

North America's largest connoisseur figure show. 10am to 3pm at the Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406
Contact: Dennis Levy 856-665-8909
Website: www.mfca.com

Looking out for each other

Know of a member who's been ill or in hospital? Let Gail Stone know so that we can send them the Society's best wishes. Contact Gail at 905-332-0653 or by email at gstone4@cogeco.ca